

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SOVIET TRADE STATISTICS FOR 1977

REF: (A) 77 MOSCOW 18142

1. VISITING JOURNALIST THADDEUS C. KOPINSKI OF BUSINESS
INTERNATIONAL RECEIVED FOLLOWING STATISTICS ON SOVIET
FOREIGN TRADE IN 1977 FROM MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE
(HE ASKED THAT WE NOT PROVIDE THEM TO ANY OTHER JOURNALIST
FOR AT LEAST ONE WEEK):
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- - 1977 1977/1976
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- - (BILLIONS OF RUBLES) (PERCENTAGE)

TOTAL TRADE (OF WHICH) 63.4 - 11.6

EXPORTS - - 33.3 - 18.9

IMPORTS - - 30.1 - 4.9

"SOCIALIST" COUNTRIES - 36.3 - 14.9
(OF WHICH)

EXPORTS - - 19.1 - 16.5

IMPORTS - -

'17.2 - 6 13.9

DEVELOPED CAPITALIST - 18.8 - 0.5
(OF WHICH)

EXPORTS - - 8.8 - 12.8

IMPORTS - - 9.9 - -8.3

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES - 8.3 - 27.7
(OF WHICH)

EXPORTS - - 5.3 - 43.2

IMPORTS - - 3.0 - 7.1

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS
BY COUNTRY FOR 1977, WHICH WE ASSUME WILL SOON BE PUBLISHED,
SHOULD ALLOW A MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS, ABOVE FIGURES
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INDICATE THAT SOVIET UNION DID CONSIDERABLY DECREASE ITS
TRADE DEFICIT WITH THE WEST IN 1977. ALTHOUGH THE REGIONAL
GROUPING "DEVELOPED CAPITALIST" IS NOT SYNONYMOUS WITH
SOVIET HARD-CURRENCY TRADING AREA, THE APPROXIM-
ATELY \$1.5 BILLION DEFICIT WITH THIS GROUP (COMPARED TO
\$4.1 BILLION FOR 1976) CAN BE TAKEN AS INDICATIVE OF THE
MAGNITUDE OF THE REDUCTION IN THE SOVIET HARD CURRENCY TRADE
DEFICIT IN 1977. COMPARISON WITH THE NINE-MONTH STATISTICS
(REFTEL) FURTHER INDICATES THAT THE SOVIET UNION ACHIEVED A
POSITIVE BALANCE WITH THIS GROUP OF COUNTRIES IN THE LAST
QUARTER OF 1977. THUS OFFICIAL SOVIET TRADE STATISTICS WILL
SHOW THAT THE SOVIET UNION MADE GREAT STRIDES IN 1977 IN
NARROWING THE IMBALANCE IN ITS TRADE WITH DEVELOPED WESTERN
COUNTRIES. TOON

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